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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,730	10/08/2003	Girish Kumar Muralidharan	137299/YOD GEMS:0242	6712

7590 03/29/2007
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EXAMINER

AUGUSTINE, NICHOLAS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/29/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/681,730

Applicant(s)

MURALIDHARAN ET AL.

Examiner

Nicholas Augustine

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19-33, 36 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19-33, 36 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- A. This action is responsive to the following communications: Amendment filed 1/03/2007. **This action is made Final.**
- B. 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection has not been withdrawn
- C. Claims 6,9,15,18,34 and 35 have been canceled
- D. Claims 36-37 are new
- E. Claims 1,7,10,16,19 and 28 have been amended
- F. Claims 1-5,7,8,10-14,16,17,19-33,36 and 37 in the case are still pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

- 1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

- 2. Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The current focus of the Patent Office in regard to statutory inventions under 35 U.S.C. 101 for method claims and claims that recite a judicial exception (software) is that the claimed invention recite a practical application. Practical application can be provided by a physical transformation or a useful, concrete and tangible result. The claims recite "A computer program, provided on one or more tangible computer readable media", thus it is the "A computer program" that is claimed,

Art Unit: 2179

not the "tangible computer readable media". It does not matter where the "computer program" is provided on, it's still the computer program is being claimed, thus this renders to be non-statutory. Consider the phrase "A computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon...", in this example the applicant claims "a computer readable storage media" which is statutory.

3. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it relates to an abstract idea, which falls under the category of being non-statutory. The following link on the World Wide Web is for the United States Patent And Trademark office (USPTO) policy on 35 U.S.C. §101

http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-5,7,8,10-14,16,17,19-33 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Lounsberry.

As to independent claims 1,7,10,16,19, 28 and 37, Miller teaches a method and corresponding apparatus and article (figures 1-2) for limiting a remote display of a local system user interface (figure 4), comprising:

- **Claim 1,7,10,16,19:** Designating one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions (figure 7B, 160 and figure 7A)
- **Claim 1,10,19:** Modifying the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to a remote operator workstation for display (figure 7B, 162 and figure 7A)
- **Claim 1,10,19:** Displaying the modified interface regions at the remote operator workstation, wherein the modified interface regions visually differ when displayed from respective unmodified interface regions (figure 3-4),

wherein the system user interface has functionality on the local operator workstation which is not enabled on the remote operator workstation (figure 2, col.8, lines 34-49 and col.5, line 65)

- **Claim 7,16,28:**Identifying one or more restricted remote inputs in an input stream to a local system using the system user interface (figure 7A, 140), wherein the one or more restricted remote inputs are generated via interaction at a remote operator workstation with the one or more limited remote access interface regions (col.5, line 65 and figure 2, 22)
- **Claim 7,16,28:**Removing the one or more restricted remote inputs from the input stream to the local system (col.8, lines 40-45)
- **Claim 28,37:**At least one local operator workstation configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals and to communicate with the one or more system control circuits and with one or more memory devices (figure 2 and col.6, lines 4-34)
- **Claim 28,37:**A remote operator workstation (col.5, line 65) configured to receive at least the one or more processed signals via a network connection (figure 2)
- **Claim 28,37:**A limited communication module located on at least one of the network connection, wherein the limited communication module may be configured to designate one or more interface regions of a system user interface as limited remote access interface regions (figure 5 A and col.8, lines 40-45)

- **Claim 1,10,19:** Modify the limited remote access interface regions present in screen data sent to the remote operator workstation such that the modified interface regions visually differ from the respective unmodified interface regions when displayed (figures 3-4)

Miller teaches other modifications of a security control subclass are possible (col.10, line 32). Various modifications and variations are possible without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention (col.10, lines 49-51). Of course, those skilled in the art that the invention of Miller can be reproduced for any system for it discloses a broad idea for use in multiple instances such as a database management, system controls, operation mechanics to any graphical user interface where there exist a remote communication between workstations and/or client/server.

Miller does not specifically mention the user of this system and method on a medical imaging system and device, however in the same field of endeavor Lounsberry teaches remotely configuring and servicing a medical imaging system and device (col.1, paragraph 2 and col.2, lines 38-40) as well as remote monitoring, remote system control, immediate file access from remote locations, remote file storage and archiving, remote resource pooling, remote recording, and remote high speed computations. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lounsberry into Miller, this is true because other network or communications schemes may be provided for enabling the service facility to communicate and exchange data and messages with diagnostic systems and remote service units, such

Art Unit: 2179

as systems including outside Internet service providers (ISP's), virtual private networks (VPN's) and so forth (col.12, lines 10-20).

As for dependent claims 2-5,11-14,24-27,20-23 and 29-33, Miller teaches the methods as recited by proper parent claim;

- **Claim 2-4,11-13,17,24-26,33:** Each limited remote access regions is designated with one of two or more levels of remote access corresponding to different degrees of modification; one level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a solid visual region when displayed such that no text or image is visible; level of remote access corresponds to a modified interface region comprising a visually obscured region when displayed through which text or images may be visible (col.10, lines 34-51)
- **Claim 5,14,27:** The visually obscured region comprises one or more of a hatching, a shading, and a tinting (col.8, lines 34-38)
- **Claim 20,29:** Further comprising one or more data processing circuits configured receive and further process the one or more signals from the one or more data acquisition circuits (note the above independent claims analysis and figure 1-2 and col.6, lines 12-30 wherein it is well appreciated in the art that a computer is in form of circuit which complete desired task which are described therein throughout the whole reference)
- **Claim 22,23,31,32:** Limited communication module comprises routines executed on at least one of the system control circuits and the local operator

workstation or by at least one server in the network connection (col.5, last paragraph)

Claim 21,30: Miller does not specifically mention to detail of specific systems and devices that would make user of the disclosed invention, of course those skilled in the art would appreciate that the method and system presented by Miller can be implemented to any general computer purpose environment. However in the same field of endeavor Lounsberry teaches remotely configuring and servicing a medical imaging system and device (col.1, paragraph 2 and col.2, lines 38-40) for one of CT imaging system, an MRI imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, an EBT imaging system, a PET imaging system, and a digital X-ray imaging system (col.1, lines 17-33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lounsberry into Miller, this is true because other network or communications schemes may be provided for enabling the service facility to communicate and exchange data and messages with diagnostic systems and remote service units, such as systems including outside Internet service providers (ISP's), virtual private networks (VPN's) and so forth (col.12, lines 10-20).

7. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goertzel in view of Lounsberry.

As to independent claim 36, Goertzel teaches a method for limiting remote access: differentiating functionality of a system user interface based on proximity (location) of an

Art Unit: 2179

operator workstation to a device (col.4, lines 51-59). Goertzel does not specifically mention the use of the method on a particular system or device, such as a medical imaging system and device, only to which the method to be used on any system and device (col.17, lines 46 – 55). However in the same field of endeavor Lounsberry teaches remote access to a medical imaging system and device (col.5, last paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Lounsberry into Goertzel, this is true because other network or communications schemes may be provided for enabling the service facility to communicate and exchange data and messages with diagnostic systems and remote service units, such as systems including outside Internet service providers (ISP's), virtual private networks (VPN's) and so forth (col.12, lines 10-20).

It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33, 216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006,1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5,7,8,10-14,16,17,19-33,36 and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

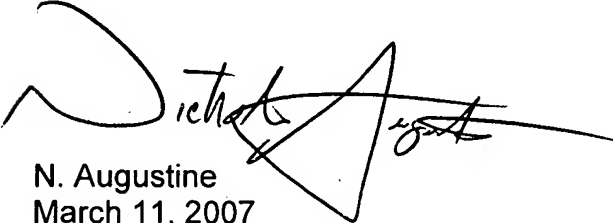
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number is 571-270-1056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 7:30- 5:00.

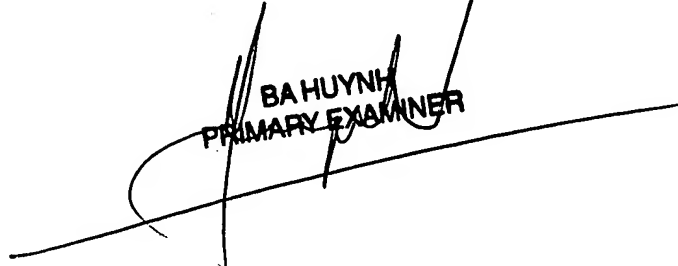
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



N. Augustine
March 11, 2007

Nicholas Augustine
Examiner
AU: 2179



BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER